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Luxury for Tyne's daughters

LAST year the cargo liner City of Port Elizabeth was docked in the Tyne. She was up for sale and it appeared nobody wanted her. It was so sad.

Her three sister ships, all built at Vickers Walker Naval Yard, were docked in Amsterdam. They were also up for sale. Nobody wanted them, either.

It looked like the scrap-heap for the 20-year-olds.

Then after four months a deal was struck with the Karageorgis Group. All four ships set sail for Greece. But it was a mystery what was going to happen to them.

Now, a year later, I can reveal a happy ending to the story. They are being converted into luxury passenger car ferries, operating between Greece and Italy.

Mr Aristomenis Karageorgis, their new owner, says it will be many years before they do reach the scrapyard.

Luxury for Tyne's Daughters